

CLAIMS:

1. A system comprising:

a server computer;

a wireless transmitter to transmit a signal; and

a portable device comprising:

a wireless receiver to receive the signal; and

a wireless transceiver to transition from a first state to a second state to perform content synchronization with the server computer in response to the signal, wherein the wireless transceiver consumes less power in the first state than in the second state.
2. The system of claim 1, wherein the wireless transmitter is physically coupled to the server computer.
3. The system of claim 1, further comprising a remote controller that includes the wireless transmitter, wherein the portable device is inside an automobile and the remote controller is physically coupled to a key to the automobile.
4. The system of claim 1, wherein the wireless transmitter transmits the signal periodically until the portable device responds to the signal.

5. The system of claim 1, wherein the wireless transmitter transmits the signal in response to a user request.
6. The system of claim 1, wherein the wireless receiver includes a radio frequency (RF) receiver and the wireless transmitter includes a RF transmitter.
7. The system of claim 1, wherein the wireless receiver includes a pager network receiver.
8. The system of claim 1, wherein the wireless receiver includes a mobile cellular phone network receiver.
9. The system of claim 1, wherein the wireless transceiver includes a wireless local area network (WLAN) transceiver.
10. The system of claim 1, wherein the server computer includes a personal computer.
11. A method comprising:
 - causing a first microprocessor in a portable device to transition from a first state to a second state in response to a wireless signal, wherein the first microprocessor consumes more power in the second state than in the first state;
 - the first microprocessor activating a wireless transceiver in the portable device to establish communication with a server computer in response to the wireless signal; and

synchronizing content stored in the portable device with content in the server computer.

12. The method of claim 11, further comprising enabling a power supply system to cause the first microprocessor to transition from the first state to the second state.

13. The method of claim 12, further comprising cycling a second microprocessor in the portable device between a first and a second power modes, wherein the second microprocessor is operable in the second power mode to enable the power supply system in response to the wireless signal, and wherein the second microprocessor consumes less power in the first power mode than in the second power mode.

14. The method of claim 13, further comprising receiving the wireless signal by a receiver coupled to the second microprocessor.

15. The method of claim 11, wherein the wireless signal includes a radio frequency (RF) pulse.

16. The method of claim 11, wherein the wireless signal includes a pager message.

17. The method of claim 11, further comprising decoding an encrypted message carried by the wireless signal.

18. A method comprising:
- activating a transmitter; and
- wirelessly transmitting a signal using the transmitter, wherein the signal causes a wireless transceiver in a portable device to transition from a first state to a second state to perform content synchronization with a server computer if the portable device receives the signal, wherein the wireless transceiver consumes less power in the first state than in the second state.
19. The method of claim 18, further comprising:
- providing a graphical user interface to allow a user to specify a predetermined time at which the signal is transmitted.
20. The method of claim 18, further comprising:
- encrypting a message, wherein wirelessly transmitting the signal includes transmitting the encoded message.
21. The method of claim 18, further comprising receiving a user request, in response to which the transmitter is activated.
22. An apparatus comprising:
- a wireless receiver to receive a signal; and

a wireless transceiver operable to transition from a first state to a second state to perform content synchronization with a server computer in response to the signal, wherein the wireless transceiver consumes less power in the first state than in the second state.

23. The apparatus of claim 22, further comprising:

a microprocessor, coupled to the wireless receiver, to periodically enable the receiver.

24. The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the microprocessor cycles between a first and a second power modes, the microprocessor consumes less power in the first power mode than in the second power mode, and the microprocessor enables the receiver when the microprocessor is in the second power mode.

25. The apparatus of claim 23, further comprising:

a second microprocessor to enable the wireless transceiver in response to the signal; and

a power supply system, coupled to the second microprocessor, to provide power to the second microprocessor.

26. The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the microprocessor causes the power supply system to provide power to the first microprocessor in response to the signal.

27. The apparatus of claim 23, further comprising a remote controller to send the signal in response to user activation.

28. The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the portable device is inside an automobile and the remote controller includes a key to the automobile.

29. A machine-readable medium that provides instructions that, if executed by a processor, will cause the processor to perform operations comprising:

providing a user interface to allow a user to enter a predetermined time; and
wirelessly transmitting a signal at the predetermined time to cause a wireless transceiver in a portable device to transition from a first state to a second state to perform content synchronization with a server computer if the portable device receives the signal, wherein the wireless transceiver consumes less power in the first state than in the second state.

30. The machine-readable medium of claim 29, wherein the operations further comprise encrypting a message and wirelessly transmitting the signal includes wirelessly transmitting the encrypted message.